

CLAIMS:

1. 1. Method for heating a zone of an elongate tubular article comprising applying to the zone a heat resistant, heat transmitting and heat dispersive shroud material, and applying a hot gas source to the outside of the shroud material to cause heat to be transmitted through the shroud material to said zone.

2. Method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said shroud material is flexible.

3. Method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said shroud material comprises pervious blanket material, metallic mesh material or heat conductive sheet material.

4. Method as claimed in claim 3 wherein said shroud material comprises woven glass fibre blanket.

5. Method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the hot gas source is a torch flame.

6. Method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said zone comprises a coating on a substrate and said coating is heated through said shroud material.

7. Method as claimed in claim 6 wherein said shroud material is applied on a zone adjacent a second zone bare of said coating.

8. Method as claimed in claim 7 wherein a heat shield structure is applied adjacent the shroud material, said heat shield structure comprising a first heat-resistant flange extending away from a surface of the article adjacent said second zone and a second heat-resistant flange extending away from the surface adjacent the coating, wherein said shroud material is disposed between

said first and second flanges.

9. Method as claimed in claim 8 including the step of heating said second zone by application of hot gas to said second zone.

5 10. Method of installing a heat-activatable repair patch over a portion of a tubular article having a coating extending at least over a first zone thereof and having a second zone bare of said coating, comprising heating said first and second zones to activation temperatures  
10 appropriate for the patch employing a heating method as claimed in claim 9 and thereafter installing said patch.

11. Method of installing a heat activatable sleeve over a weld joint area of a coated pipeline having first zones including said coating axially outwardly from a second  
15 zone bare of said coating, comprising heating said first and second zones to activation temperatures appropriate for said sleeve employing a heating method as claimed in claim 9, and thereafter installing said sleeve.

12. Method as claimed in claim 11 wherein at least one  
20 heat shield structure has said first and second flanges axially spaced and said shroud material is wrapped around the girth of the pipeline.

13. Method as claimed in claim 8 wherein said second flange has a transversely outward extension.

25 14. Apparatus for use in applying heating to an elongate tubular article comprising heat shield structure having first and second spaced heat resistant flanges adapted to extend outwardly from the article and in association with each heat shield structure a heat resistant heat  
30 transmitting and heat dispersive shroud material adapted to extend over said article between said first and second flanges.

15. Apparatus as claimed in claim 14 for use in preheating a portion of said article for reception of a patch, wherein said first and second flanges are endless, and said second flange is spaced transversely outwardly from said first flange.

16. Apparatus as claimed in claim 14 for use in preheating a weld joint area for reception of a sleeve, wherein said flanges are adapted to extend radially from the article, and said shroud material is adapted to extend around the girth of the article.